

and the United States of America well. God Bless for a well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to state that due to unforeseen circumstances, I missed rollcall vote 353 to H.R. 6124 taken on May 22, 2008. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "yea" on this measure.

While this Farm Bill is not perfect, I would have voted to support the bill because of the benefit it will bring to Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers. In a time of rampant Government spending, I would like to have seen substantive reform in terms of fiscal responsibility. However, this bill does take necessary steps to help the agriculture industry that is vital to the State of Oklahoma. I look forward to voting on this measure to ensure that it becomes law.

HONORING PLEASANT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Pleasant Valley High School Boys Cross Country team. This past fall Pleasant Valley captured the Iowa Class 4A Cross Country Championship!

The Pleasant Valley team finished the course with a team average time of 16 minutes, 10 seconds. And the individual winner of the meet was Pleasant Valley runner Devin Allbaugh who finished the course in 15 minutes, 39 seconds.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Pleasant Valley Boys Cross Country team, both on and off the court. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team, says it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself." This past weekend, Pleasant Valley proved just that.

SALUTING BRIAN KROHN

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize an outstanding student from my district whose research has helped develop a new biodiesel production method that will help move our country in the direction of energy independence.

Brian Krohn, a Senior Chemistry Major at Augsburg College in Minneapolis recently conducted a summer research project aimed at

investigating new ways to produce biodiesel. His project developed a new, innovative chemical reaction that has never before been described in scientific literature. This new process—"Mcgyan Process," named for the three scientists officially credited with the discovery, can convert a much wider range of feedstock oils and animal fats into biodiesel. The Mcgyan Process can make more biodiesel fuel, faster and with a minimal environmental impact. The wider range of renewable oils that can be used through the Mcgyan Process also has the potential to foster additional environmentally sound discoveries that can help move our country in the right direction of renewable energy.

All of these discoveries were made possible by the research and ideas initiated by Brian Krohn and the learning environment fostered by Augsburg College. Brian's success should serve as a reminder of the potential that exists within every student. With the appropriate encouragement, support and a positive working environment truly amazing discoveries can occur.

Madam Speaker, we salute Brian Krohn and all our nation's remarkable students, teachers, and scientists who are persistently working to bring knowledge, ingenuity and hard work together to move our country toward energy independence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall vote 341.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote 341.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act. This legislation will extend and expand important tax incentives for renewable energy, will spur business investments, cut taxes for millions of Americans, and retain and create hundreds of thousands of green jobs.

The Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act includes \$18 billion in tax incentives to spur green jobs and energy independence. I am pleased that it includes a six-year extension of the investment tax credit for solar energy, and between one and three year extensions of the production tax credit for addition sources of renewable energy. It also provides tax credits of \$3,000 or more to purchase fuel-efficient, plug-in hybrid vehicles and includes important incentives for energy conservation in commercial buildings, residential structures, and energy efficient appliance. This bill also includes \$3 billion in tax credit bonds for State and local governments to make energy con-

servation investments in public infrastructure, investments which I hope can be targeted toward low-income communities and our schools.

Without these energy tax extensions, our nation could lose an additional 116,000 jobs this year. With additional long-term repercussions in the growth of an industry which has enormous potential at in an otherwise uncertain economic time.

This legislation also invests \$37 billion to spur job creation and cut taxes for millions of middle-class families. It will help the families of more than 13 million children by expanding the child tax credit to those earning \$8,500 a year, saves 3.4 million teachers money by providing a deduction for classroom expenses, extends tax relief under the Earned Income Tax Credit to 22,000 American servicemen and women in combat, and would help more than 4.5 million families better afford college.

At a time when families are struggling in a slowing economy and oil prices reached yet another record on the world market, this bill is a much needed step toward securing our energy and economic future. I hope my colleagues and the President will join us in enacting this important legislation which makes needed investments without increasing the national debt.

HONORING WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES AND FEMALE VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1054 to express my appreciation to the one million plus female veterans across our Nation and the thousands of women serving in our armed forces today. I want to thank these brave heroines who sacrifice much to not only protect our safety but also defend our freedoms.

Our brave men and women, who have chosen to join our all volunteer military, share not only a passion for their country but a respect for the ideals that it promotes. While women served honorably in World War I, they were not permitted to participate in the armed forces as equals until the passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948. This legislation made it possible for women to serve in active duty and reserve military occupational specialties, other than nursing, and as equals to their male counterparts.

While women are still prohibited from serving in front line military units, their ability to wear the uniform and assist our efforts at home and abroad must be commended. It is important to remember that during our 10 year involvement in Vietnam, eight service women lost their lives. More recently, 110 women have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Global War on Terrorism. These brave women are not only soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. They are our daughters, our mothers, our sisters, and our aunts. They are an integral component of our community and we must remember that as they deploy or are lost in action, we too suffer along with their families.

As we honor those serving today and those who have served in the past, we must rededicate ourselves to providing the benefits and